CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for treating a damaged or degenerated fat pad of a host in need thereof, said method comprising injecting into the fat pad of said host a biocompatible solution, with an intrinsic viscosity above 5 mPa·s at physiological temperature, ~~substantially similar to a fatty acid mixture normally present in a healthy fat pad~~ wherein said solution is composed of at least one fatty acid selected from the group consisting of a natural or unnatural saturated fatty acid and a mono or poly unsaturated fatty acid.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the fat pad is located in the sub-calcaneal, outside arch or metatarsal of a foot.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the saturated fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of palmitate, stearate, and myristate, and acyclic, cyclic, heterocyclic, aromatic ester derivatives thereof, wherein the derivatives contain ~~containing one or more groups~~ a group selected from hydroxy, acyloxy, aryloxy, amino, sulfhydryl, sulfonate, sulfate, phosphonate, phosphate, bis-, tris- and poly-phosphonates and phosphates, phosphatidyl, nucleosides, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, and polyols.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the unsaturated fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of palmitoleate, oleate, vaccenate and linoleate, and acyclic, cyclic, heterocyclic, aromatic ester derivatives thereof, wherein the derivatives contain ~~containing one or more groups~~ a group selected from hydroxy, acyloxy, aryloxy,

amino, sulfhydryl, sulfonate, sulfate, phosphonate, phosphate, bis-, tris- and poly-phosphonates and phosphates, phosphatidyl, nucleosides, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, and polyols.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said solution is an autologous solution.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said fatty acids are mixed with a metabolically absorbable liquid vehicle.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 7, wherein the liquid vehicle is selected from the group consisting of water, alcoholic solvent, alkylene glycol and poly-alcohol.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 7, wherein the liquid vehicle is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, ethylene glycol and glycerol.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said solution comprises at least palmitate and oleoate.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution becomes viscous or turns into a gel after injection.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution comprises a polymer.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 12, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, a substituted cellulose, poly(ethylene glycol)

poly(propylene glycol), a copolymer of poly(ethylene glycol), a copolymer of poly(propylene glycol), a poly(ethylene glycol) copolymer with a poly(hydroxy acid), a poly(vinyl alcohol), or a poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), or a mixture thereof.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 12, wherein the biopolymer is selected from the group consisting of a polysaccharide and a polypeptide.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 14, wherein the biopolymer is selected from the group consisting of collagen, hyaluronic acid, poly(ethylene glycol), polylysine, gelatin, chitosan, alginate, and chondroïtin sulfate.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 11, wherein the solution comprises monomers and/or oligomers, or a mixture of at least two different monomers and polymerises or co-polymerises within the pad after injection.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 11, wherein the solution ~~contains~~ comprises a viscous component mixed with a metabolically absorbable liquid vehicle, wherein after injection, the vehicle is absorbed in the host, thus increasing the concentration and hence the viscosity of the solution component.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution comprises a polymer and a metabolically absorbable liquid vehicle.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution comprises an aqueous liquid.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution comprises a non-aqueous liquid.

21. (CANCELLED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution ~~is a thermo-gelling solution~~ forms a gel at a temperature above 30°C.

23. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution is a thermo-gelling chitosan-based solution.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution comprises ~~of~~ hyaluronic acid, and a metabolically absorbable liquid vehicle.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution comprises ~~of~~ collagen, and a metabolically absorbable liquid vehicle.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution comprises components ~~elected~~ selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, thermogelling chitosan-based solution, collagen, hyaluronic acid, poly(ethylene glycol), and a metabolically absorbable liquid vehicle.

27. (CANCELLED)

28. (CANCELLED)

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution is liquid at a temperature of and below 20 degrees Celsius, but forms a gel at temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius.

30. (CANCELLED)

31. (CANCELLED)

32. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution is pre-heated at a temperature between 35 and 45 degrees Celsius to be liquid and injectable.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution is a gel at the time of injection.

34. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said solution is injected into the fat pad by use of a syringe and a hypodermic needle.

35. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein said method is repeated periodically.

36. (CANCELLED)